



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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19 September 1994

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Burundi

Interim President Denies 14 Sep Palace Attack

BR1609153194 Brussels DE MORGEN in Dutch
16 Sep 94 p 12

[Report by "GVL": "Burundian Interim President Denies There Was Attack on Palace"]

[Text] According to the Burundian Embassy in Bonn, Burundian Interim President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya narrowly escaped an attack Wednesday night [14 September]. In an interview with DE MORGEN, Ntibantunganya denied that it was an attack. "We did hear shots at around 2330 GMT, but I did not get the impression that the palace was the target." Ntibantunganya is one of the few surviving leaders of the FRODEBU [Burundi Democratic Front], the leading Hutu party, which won the 1993 elections. Melchior Ndadaye, former FRODEBU leader and the very first Hutu president, was killed last 21 October in his palace by rebel Tutsi troops.

The shots around the palace came after days of fighting between the Tutsi dominated Army and armed Hutus in the Kamenge quarter. The Army sent in armored vehicles and thousands of residents fled. "The situation has calmed down now. The Army has taken over Kamenge, and there is no more fighting," the ever cautious Ntibantunganya said. He also affirmed that "the government is assuming responsibility for the Army's actions."

The rhetoric from Isidore Ndayirinde, FRODEBU chairman in Brussels, was completely different. He said that the Army forced Ntibantunganya to sign the order to disarm the people in Kamenge, a Hutu stronghold. "The outcome of the operation was no seized arms, hundreds of victims, and a number of houses deliberately set on fire," Ndayirinde said. "Those are politicians' speculations," Ntibantunganya replied. "The problem we are wrestling with is how to isolate the extremists on both sides. In this respect, the government is trying to cooperate with the Army. That will not be easy, but it is our duty to try."

Further From AFP on Attack on Parliamentary Deputy

AB1609210194 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Nairobi, Sept 16 (AFP)—A parliamentary deputy of the ruling Hutu-dominated Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) was shot and seriously wounded in the Burundian capital Bujumbura on Friday [16 September], sources reached by telephone said.

The lawmaker, Norbert Ndihekubwayo, was admitted to hospital in the capital, according to the source, who requested anonymity.

The attack is one of several in the capital this week, believed to have been carried out by extremists apparently trying to wreck an agreement politicians signed last Saturday in a bid to avert more killings in the central

African country, which has the same ethnic mix as neighbouring war-torn Rwanda.

Unconfirmed reports said Burundian Hutu extremists had recruited Hutu militiamen blamed for the ethnic carnage in Rwanda.

Up to 1 million Rwandans, mostly from the Tutsi minority, were massacred in an orgy of bloodletting triggered by the April 6 death of moderate Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspicious plane crash.

The fighting in Bujumbura broke out on Tuesday between troops of the Tutsi-led army and extremist militias of the Hutu majority.

Two soldiers were killed and four others were wounded after the announcement of the accord providing for power-sharing between the Tutsi minority opposition parties and the Hutu-led government.

Several people within the government accuse former interior minister Leonard Nyangoma, who is reported to have recently visited Hutu refugee camps in the Zairean town of Bukavu, of being behind the violence because of his reluctance to share power with the Tutsis.

Unidentified Gunmen Shoot Ruling Party MP

EA1609205194 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Insecurity persists in the country, especially in Bujumbura itself. A murder attempt was perpetrated in Bujumbura against a parliamentarian from the FRODEBU [Front for Democracy in Burundi] parliamentary group this afternoon. I suggest you listen immediately to the minister of territorial administration:

[Territorial Minister Lazare Gakoryo] "I just learned one hour ago—probably at the same time you did—that there was a murder attempt against a people's representative who was driving down Murundi People Avenue, between the Bwiza and Buyenzi zones. The deputy reportedly has been taken to [name indistinct] medical clinic. I am not in a position to tell whether his life is in danger or not, and I am not aware of the seriousness of the injuries he suffered.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us who he is?

[Gakoryo] It was Deputy Norbert Ndihekubwayo of Gitega."

[Announcer] For FRODEBU chairman Corneille Buzigye of the FRODEBU parliamentary group, the situation is very worrying, since it risks plunging the country into a spiral of violence. For Mr. Corneille Buzigye, this is real political genocide. Here is Corneille Buzigye's reaction:

[Buzigye] "[passage omitted] One of our deputies, Norbert Ndihekubwayo, who was elected to represent Gitega constituency, was driving down the road when

two young men ambushed him. These two young men got out of a vehicle behind him and shot him with a pistol in the neck and leg.

Doctors are doing their best to take care of him. But for us, because of what we have been witnessing since 21 October against political officials, especially those from our political group, we more and more think that we are the object of political genocide. [passage omitted] We are expecting some sort action from the judiciary since this sort of hunting down of politicians started. I think that this is the fifth deputy we have lost [as heard] in a period of eight months. This is really becoming a worrisome issue.

Parties Agree on Presidential Election Method

EA1709185094 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Participants at the talks aimed at restoring the presidential institution have just signed an agreement on the method for electing the head of state. The opposition parties which signed the document are: The Unity and National Progress Party, the People's Reconciliation Party, the National Alliance for Rights and Development, the Social Democratic Party, and the Guarantor of Freedom of Speech in Burundi party.

All pro-government parties signed the agreement. These are: The Front for Democracy in Burundi, the People's Party, the Burundi People's Rally, and the Liberal Party. Parties which did not sign the agreement are: the Party for National Recovery, ABASA [expansion unknown], and the Rally for Democracy and Economic and Social Development. PIT [expansion unknown] did not sign the agreement, although it recognizes it. The party says that it will sign it in the near future.

According to the agreement, candidates will be registered from tomorrow, and the process itself will take four days. Participants at the talks will choose a candidate for the presidency before forwarding him to the National Assembly for confirmation.

Rwanda

Radio Attacks Butrus-Ghali's Role During Massacres

EA1609163694 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 1115 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The only aim of Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's behavior with regard to the Rwandan question was to facilitate the implementation of the plan for genocide. Butrus-Ghali, who is the UN secretary general as you know, has never stopped to [word indistinct] but definitely in favor of all the factors at the origin of the Rwandan tragedy. For instance, at a time when the genocide was entering its most decisive phase, Butrus-Ghali decided to reduce substantially the size of the contingent of Blue Berets, instead of reinforcing it to

enable it to protect innocent civilians against the madness of the militiamen and former government soldiers. Many of us will remember the departure in broad daylight of the Blue Berets who were protecting thousands of civilians in Kicukiro last April: The Blue Berets left, and by doing so left the field open for killers who massacred more than 3,000 people in a few hours. The decision to withdraw the Blue Berets had been taken by Mr. Butrus-Butrus Ghali, who later on became aware of the consequences of his decision [words indistinct] without saying a single word.

Mr. Butrus-Butrus Ghali, who was undoubtedly aware of the active support of the French Government for the Habyarimana regime in preparing the genocide, withdrew the Blue Berets allowing, as we said, the Rwandan tragedy to unfold in its every detail in all corners of Rwanda. Once the genocide was committed, Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali finally a [as heard] UN humanitarian intervention, an intervention which could not materialize—one could expect that—until UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali agreed with that same French Government—whose heavy responsibility in Rwanda was known to him—to allow French troops return to Rwanda under the name of Operation Turquoise, and with their so-called—of course—mission to intervene within a humanitarian framework. [passage omitted]

President Criticizes West for 'Misunderstanding' Conflict

LD1609201994 Hilversum Radio Netherlands in English 1730 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Rwandan President [break in reception] for keeping quiet while the massacres in the Rwanda refugee camps in Zaire are continuing. He also criticized Western countries for misunderstanding the conflict in Rwanda that they still see as a purely ethnic struggle. President Bizimungu was speaking at a two-day international conference on Rwanda in The Hague. He asked the more than 100 representatives from African and European countries, as well as international organizations, to accept his government as the government of national unity, and not as a government that represents only Tutsis.

Dutch Foreign minister Hans van Mierlo said in his opening speech that the repatriation of Rwandan refugees had the highest priority. He called for national reconciliation, but added that those responsible for the massacres should be put on trial.

President Ready for Talks With France to Improve Relations

LD1609144194 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0600 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] An international conference on Rwanda opens in The Hague, in the Netherlands, today. The new Rwandan president [Pasteur Bizimungu] is taking part in it. This is his first visit abroad. During the summer the

Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] rebels frequently criticized Operation Turquoise, organized by France to put an end to the massacres in Rwanda. France was suspected of connivance with the Hutus, the majority ethnic group which was in power at the time. Today the Rwandan president believes that the French intervention operation came too late:

[Begin recording] [Bizimungu] One might regret the fact that Operation Turquoise came rather late. Human lives were saved, of course, but if it had come earlier a great many human lives would have been saved. I wonder, for example, if a safe zone had been organized in Kigali at the beginning of the massacres then it would certainly have been possible to save 90 percent of the people who died.

[Correspondent Quentin Dickinson] Will you take initiatives to normalize relations with France?

[Bizimungu] I believe that for our part we have not done anything which could complicate relations with France. We are still waiting and we are ready to step up contacts, and open up dialogue. We believe that the problem between Rwanda and France is mainly the result of misunderstandings and we shall do everything in our power to dispel the misunderstandings, because we think that France believes in the basic rights of human beings, and we believe in these basic rights. (?So, there is no real reason why we should not be able to resolve) the differences between our country and France. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Pasteur Bizimungu, the Rwandan president, speaking to Quentin Dickinson in a France-Inter exclusive.

Government Appoints New Information Minister

EA1709200394 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 0500 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] A government council meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu and Vice Prime Minister and Civil Service Minister Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe. [passage omitted]

The prime minister began the meeting by introducing the new information minister, Mr. (Jean-Baptiste Nduwin-goma), who is thus information minister as of yesterday.

Regarding decisions taken during the previous Council of Ministers' meeting on 19 August, the issue of the setting up of the National Assembly was raised first: The government asked the various political formations to get ready to present their candidates. [passage omitted]

World Bank Asks Government To Repay Previous Regime's Debts

LD1609173694 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The World Bank has asked the new authorities of Kigali to repay the debt arrears of the previous regime before resuming the payment of new loans. According to the World Bank, the debt amounts to \$3.75 million. The World Bank says it will closely monitor the arms expenditure of the Kigali regime. A year ago, the organization suspended its payments to the government of Juvenal Habyarimana because it thought his regime was over-spending on weapons.

Bank Pledges \$240 Million in Aid

EA1609192594 Kigali Radio Rwanda in Kinyarwanda 1045 gmt 16 sep 94

[Text] The World Bank has pledged aid of \$240 million to Rwanda and promised to continue assisting in the rehabilitation program of our country's [word indistinct]. The World Bank has, in this respect, allocated \$35 million on the condition that the Rwandan Government does everything possible to pay the \$4 million it owes the World Bank.

This was stated by the director of the World Bank for east Africa and the Indian Ocean, (Sakata), to Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu during their discussions yesterday.

(Sakata) and Prime Minister Twagiramungu agreed that the Rwandan economy, which was destroyed by the former regime, needs to be restructured. Within this framework, (Sakata) told Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu that the World Bank would not impose a development program on Rwanda. Instead, the Rwandan Government must present priority projects to the World Bank. The World Bank director also met some of the cabinet ministers.

Zaire

Rwandan Refugees Enter Kisangani 'Clandestinely'

AB1609113794 Dakar PANA in English 1830 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Sep (AZAP/PANA)—A group of Rwandan refugees from northern Kivu (Zaire), has clandestinely entered Kisangani Province (upper Zaire, north-west), a communique from the civic centre in the city said Thursday [15 September]. The communique said these refugees had benefited from the support of traders coming from upper Zaire to join their compatriots who have been living in this city for several years. The civic centre said it had created a commission to monitor the refugees.

Kenya**Moi Discusses Sudan Conflict With Government's al-Turabi***EA1709141994 Nairobi KNA in English 1005 GMT
17 Sep 94*

[Text] Nairobi, 17 September (KNA)—His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today at his Kabarak residence held lengthy discussions with Mr. Hasan al-Turabi, who is the head of the National Islamic Front of the Sudan. The discussions centered on the Sudanese conflict which President Moi said was a complex issue.

In this regard, President Moi said it was his wish that the next meeting of the parties to the conflict would delve deep into the intricacies of the issue in a more serious manner than they have done hitherto.

Foreign Minister: Confidence in Moi Government Restored*AB1809170194 Nairobi KNA in English 0910 GMT
18 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Mwingi, 18 Sep (KNA)—The minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka, yesterday said that confidence of the international community in President Daniel arap Moi's government had been restored. Mr. Musyoka said that some politicians in the opposition who misconstrued [as received] political pluralism had antagonized the government and maligned its image in the eyes of the international community which he said had led to the country being denied economic aid. He, however, said the government was satisfied that foreign countries were no longer willing to listen to distortions from some disgruntled elements in the opposition and they had changed their attitude and resumed aid to Kenya.

The government, he further said, was committed to ensuring that all Kenyans lived in peace and harmony and castigated the opposition for instigating wananchi [citizens] into hatred and acts of lawlessness for their own selfish political ambitions.

The minister was addressing wananchi at Katoteni Primary School in Nguutani Location, Mwingi District during a funds drive in aid of a proposed secondary school in the area. Mr. Musyoka also urged leaders from the opposition to rally behind H.E. President Daniel arap Moi for the sake of continued unity in the country. [passage omitted]

President Moi Holds Negotiations With Sudanese Government*EA1509125794 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting
Corporation Network in English 0400 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Reports which have just reached the newsroom say that President Moi has been having consultations

with the Government of Sudan since the break off of the peace mediation talks between that government and the parties to the conflict. President Moi has expressed hope that the talks would resume so as to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

Sudan's al-Bashir Arrives in Nairobi for IGADD Summit*EA1809190394 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting
Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan arrived this afternoon to a red-carpet welcome by his host, President Daniel arap Moi, at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. On arrival, President al-Bashir inspected a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the Kenya Armed Forces.

President al-Bashir is in the country to attend the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] committee summit on Sudan peace talks tomorrow. President Moi will chair the summit. President Moi and President al-Bashir held talks at the presidential pavilion at the airport. [passage omitted].

Uganda**Constituent Assembly Amends State Emergency Laws***EA1509220094 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in
English 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] The Constituent Assembly [CA] today unanimously passed Article 70 on the effect of laws enacted for state emergency, but amended some clauses in Article 71, which deals with detention-under-emergency laws. The assembly also passed Articles 68 and 69, both of which generated heated debate lasting for more than an hour. The amendment on the Article 68 was moved by the vice chairman for the legal and drafting committee Mr. Ben Wacha, where it had been referred for redefining. The article was first presented to the CA for consideration last week when some delegates, notably Waswa Lule and Sam Kuteesa, opposed it on the grounds that the inclusion of the phrase, quote, in public interest, end quote, is detrimental to the fundamental rights of Ugandans, because it is widely open to interpretation and abuse.

The amended version, which was passed unanimously after the technical committee had rephrased it, now caters for those fears, while still putting limits to the interpretation of what should constitute public interest. In the heated debate which preceded the adoption of the amendment, reference was made to instances in the past where Ugandans were persecuted or their rights curtailed in the name of public interest. [passage omitted]

Government 'Considering' U.S. Request on Haiti

MB1609165294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Defense Minister Joe Modise says South Africa is considering an American request for it to play a peace-keeping role in Haiti at a later stage, but he has emphasized that this country has its own problems and faces a major task in dealing with instability at home with limited resources. Mr. Modise was speaking at the official opening of the new air force headquarters in Pretoria. The new building will serve as the air force's main planning and operational center.

Built at a cost of 220 million rands, the new headquarters epitomizes the air force philosophy of central command and control. This means that the crucial planning and execution of operations in South Africa's main operational area can be carried out from here. The same procedures will apply in normal day-to-day operations. Air force personnel used to be spread around Pretoria city center in five buildings. From now on, command and control problems should be a thing of the past.

In his address, Mr. Modise said the new headquarters contained the finest command post in Africa and would make a substantial contribution to increasing the effectiveness of the air force. The complex is designed to provide protection against direct bomb hits, terrorist, and sabotage attacks, as well as chemical and biological warfare.

NP Opposes Sending Troops

MB1609185794 Johannesburg SABC CCV Television Network in Zulu 1700 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The National Party (NP) has said in a statement that it is against sending South African troops to Haiti as a peacekeeping force. An NP foreign affairs spokesman, Dr. Boy Geldenhuys, said the South African Government had previously said the country was not in a position to send troops to Rwanda and the same criteria should apply in the case of Haiti.

Mandela Says Amnesty Should Be Applied Equally

MB1609202194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1903 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Bloemfontein Sept 16 SAPA—Political prisoners who committed crimes against apartheid or in its defence should be treated equally when being considered for amnesty, President Nelson Mandela said on Friday night [16 September].

Speaking at the Bloemfontein Attorneys' Association bi-annual dinner, Mr. Mandela said he had met Freedom Front leader Gen Constand Viljoen earlier on Friday to discuss the issue of amnesty and the function of the proposed Truth Commission.

He said he had tried to allay fears expressed by Gen Viljoen that the commission would be used for "retribution and revenge."

The Truth Commission was intended "to address the concerns of victims.... Its mandate is to investigate facts and place them before South Africa."

Mr. Mandela said Gen. Viljoen had also expressed fears that certain individuals would "escape" the commission's findings because they now occupied government posts.

The president said the issues and concerns raised by Gen. Viljoen, some of which Mr. Mandela said were legitimate, could be put to the public to gauge their opinion.

"No one should have concerns, including Afrikaners.... Only those who want to hide the past because it may implicate them" would fear the commission's investigation, Mr. Mandela added.

Mandela Warns Against Taking Hostages, Damaging Property

MB1709160694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0928 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Springbok Sept 17 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela on Saturday warned protesters the government could act against them if they continued taking hostages or destroying property. In notes for delivery to a rally at Springbok Stadium in the Northern Cape, Mr. Mandela said there was a growing tendency among protesters to abuse their rights to demonstrate.

"The holding hostage of individuals during protest actions is a criminal act which the government cannot tolerate," he said in apparent reference to the recent hostage drama at the Odi Training Centre near Pretoria. Similarly, the setting alight of public property as we witnessed recently is an act which, if not ceased forthwith, will prompt the government to consider actions to ensure that this does not happen again," Mr. Mandela said two days after Johannesburg residents ran riot through the south-western suburbs of Eldorado Park, Westbury and Coronationville. "We have to stop looking at ourselves as the opposition. Our militancy must be rededicated to improving production and the creation of more job opportunities."

On the lack of hospital facilities in Namaqualand, Mr. Mandela called on institutions to make their medical facilities available. "The mining houses, for example, could alleviate the burden on our people by making their facilities available to nearby communities," he said, adding Namaqualand residents often had to travel to hospitals in Cape Town. "The success of the Reconstruction and Development Programme depends on the co-operation of the government, business and mass organisations of the people. Without this relationship, we are doomed."

Mandela Clarifies Mandate of Proposed Truth Commission*MB1709190794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0600 GMT 17 Sep 94*

[Text] President Nelson Mandela has met Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen to discuss the proposed truth commission. Speaking at the Bloemfontein Attorneys' Association dinner last night, Mr. Mandela said he had tried to allay fears expressed by General Viljoen that the commission would be used for retribution and revenge.

[Begin Mandela recording] The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is intended to address the concerns of the victims. It is not a court of law. It has no power to charge and prosecute anybody. Its mandate is limited to investigating the facts and placing them before South Africa. It will be for the police and the attorneys general of this country, if they so wish, to prefer charges against those who are guilty. [end recording]

Mandela on Slow Pace of Restructuring Government*MB1709194794 Johannesburg SABA in English 0002 GMT 17 Sep 94*

[Text] Bloemfontein Sept 16 SABA—President Nelson Mandela said on Friday [16 September] he believed it was an error of judgment to think the amalgamation and restructuring of a public service of 1.2 million people could be achieved in two months. He was speaking at the bi-annual dinner of the Bloemfontein Attorneys' Association.

"I fully understand both the impatience of the people of the Orange Free State to get on with the task of governance, and their frustration at the slow pace of the assignment of the powers and resources necessary to govern. I can only say we are doing our utmost to expedite an extremely complex process of amalgamation and restructuring of a public service of 1.2 million people." Mr. Mandela said he believed it was an error of judgment to think the process could be achieved in two months. He stressed, however, the government of national unity had no intention of dragging its feet on the issue.

Intelligence Service Denies Reports of 'Exodus'*MB1709160194 Johannesburg SABA in English 2316 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] Pretoria Sept 16 SABA—The National Intelligence Service [NIS] on Friday denied reports of an exodus by more than a quarter of its agents. An NIS spokesman said in Pretoria the figure of 547, quoted from "a secret cabinet document" in a newspaper on Friday, represented the total of staff cuts in rationalisation of the service since 1989.

The newspaper said the resignations had been "recent enough for the posts still to be vacant." Filling them would require R152 million [rands], it stated.

The spokesman said NIS was proud of having trimmed its staff by 547 in five years. "We feel the report has treated us unfairly by creating the impression that hundreds of agents have been deserting the department recently." He said NIS had done its homework five years ago and came to the conclusion that it had to save money by not replacing some who retired or left the service, without abolishing their posts. The spokesman said some agents may have left because they were apprehensive about the new government, but they represented no more than 10 per cent of the 547. "One should also keep in mind that all organisations have a turnover of personnel," he added.

New Finance Minister: Taxes, Borrowing Must Be Reduced*MB1909083194 Johannesburg SABA in English 0708 GMT 19 Sep 94*

[Text] Cape Town Sept 19 SABA—Attention would have to be given to ways of reducing South Africa's high taxes and borrowings, new Finance Minister Mr. Chris Liebenberg said on Monday [19 September].

He was speaking shortly after being sworn in at Tuynhuys by the judge president of the Western Cape, Mr. Justice Gerald Friedman.

Asked about his priorities in the new post, Mr. Liebenberg said the deficit before borrowings was too high, as were taxes and borrowings. "So that really focuses the mind. I mean what else is there to do?"

"Reduce consumption and sell some of the state assets. These are two of the things I will look at and see if it is possible."

Mr. Liebenberg replaces Mr. Derek Keys, who is retiring from public life. This follows last week's passage through Parliament of an amendment to the Constitution which permits Mr. Liebenberg to serve in cabinet without being a member of the National Assembly or Senate.

Mr. Liebenberg said on Monday he was not a member of any political party and had never attended a political meeting. He would "work for the government of national unity", he said. Mr. Liebenberg said he believed South Africa needed a market-related economy and stable government.

"For that reason we had better address the distortion in social society, and for that reason we need to have a very successful reconstruction and development programme.

"To make that successful you need very strict fiscal and monetary discipline. You need an economy that's growing, and ultimately South Africa must comply with international standards."

These were the issues he would commit himself to in his new job, he said. South Africa needed to identify an economic vision, as well as milestones against which to measure its progress toward that vision. "That's my greatest task in future, to identify that vision and to communicate it to the South African society at large."

At the moment the economy looked good. Commodity prices were rising worldwide, and his predecessor, Mr. Keys, had set basic guidelines over the past two years. Sanctions were a thing of the past and new doors were being opened. "So the future looks much more rosy than the past," he said.

International standards dictated that exchange controls were not good, but he did not believe in ad hoc measures. The controls would have to be looked at in the context of a comprehensive strategy.

Asked about his approach to next month's International Monetary Fund and World Bank meeting in Madrid, he said he intended to spell out South Africa's commitment to a market related economy, and its desire to walk "on the long road of international standards". He would also give an assurance that South Africa wanted to be investor-friendly.

"While we address political reconstruction ourselves, for social and economic reconstruction we certainly need outside help and assistance," he said. He favoured World Bank borrowing if it formed part of a comprehensive and co-ordinated economic philosophy, and the money was not just being taken because it happened to be available.

Deputy Finance Minister Discusses Economic Situation

MB1809181694 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Sep 94 p 4

[Report on interview with South African Deputy Finance Minister Alec Erwin by Edyth Bulbring; place and date not given]

[Text] Two months ago the markets were jibbering at the rumours—Finance Minister Derek Keys was resigning. His deputy, a lanky communist and trade unionist called Alec Erwin, was going to take over. Several hours later, South Africa, as some saw it, was hauled back from a fate worse than Cuba with the announcement that respected banker Chris Liebenberg would succeed Mr Keys.

This week, Mr. Liebenberg begins his job. But he is going to find it difficult to be tougher than Mr. Erwin in his attitude to fiscal discipline, his commitment to economic growth and his determination to cut the fat from both the public and the private sectors.

Mr. Erwin's actions and statements in past weeks led one delegate at the Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions] congress last week to remark: "He is beginning to sound more like bloody Margaret Thatcher every day."

Mr. Erwin laughs warily at the comment. As far as he is concerned, he and Mrs. Thatcher are worlds apart.

He has not had a Damascus road conversion to conservative economic policies. All he is doing is confronting a major problem as practically as possible.

He identifies the problem quite simply as: In the past, a certain amount of money was being spend on a few

people. Now, the same amount of money has to be spent on many more people. You can't spend money you don't have and you can't borrow on the future. You simply have to grow more money.

Central to the problem is the amount of money that the government spends and the way in which it is spent. The solution offered by Mr. Erwin is a phrase used often by President Nelson Mandela—"tightening our belts."

It suggests to sceptical taxpayers that they are not going to get the services they need, nor the quality of service they are used to.

To Mr. Erwin it means ensuring that the government does not spend beyond the targets that it has set itself. On this question Mr. Erwin is adamant.

What is set down in the budget is what you get, and no more. There has to be a very good reason to spend more than what has been allocated.

It also means using the money more efficiently. He uses the example of a civil servant who performs a useful service by driving an expensive car. "You say no, you can provide the same service by driving a cheaper car. A car is a car. That is belt tightening."

The third feature of "belt tightening" is reducing the government deficit. Borrowing to pay for day to day expenses is no long acceptable.

The government is evaluating how its assets are being used. If they are not being used effectively, they should be sold off or commercialised.

However, money made from assets should have a structural impact on the economy—like lowering debt or spending on the RDP—and should not be used for daily expenditure.

Although the belt tightening message is extended to the private sector, there are some areas, like the exorbitant executive salaries, that the government will not be able to change. Mr. Erwin is certain that collective bargaining and international competition will sort this out.

"We are going to find Japanese and German executives coming in here and investing with lower cost structures because they are prepared to accept a lower salary package," he says. They will pay better wages to their workers, and have a better trained, more stable and more productive work force. The private sector will fast learn the lesson of belt tightening and where it is slow to learn, the government will assist.

This "assistance" includes removing protective tariffs and subsidies. The government had to evaluate whether it was paying out large incentives to companies that would have exported a particular product in any event. "If you are doing this, then you are improving their profits at government's expense."

The message to the private sector was not a warning to sink or swim. "It's just saying let's use funds wisely. If we use it wisely in government, it can only help you in the private sector."

Mr. Erwin has the same attitude to tariffs. "Tariff structures are very high in certain areas. It makes domestic costs high. That restricts the market because the majority of our consumers are not high income consumers.

"That keeps your industry small. Because your industry is small it makes costs go up, and then you put a tariff on a higher cost and you keep going up all the time. We have to start reversing the cycle."

Tax Revenues Running Ahead of Budget Estimates

MB1909063994 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES (BUSINESS TIMES Supplement) in English 18 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Sven Lunsche]

[Text] Government finances are receiving a strong boost from tax and customs revenues running well ahead of budgeted estimates.

Figures released by the Central Statistical Service [CSS] on Friday [16 September] show that in the first five months of the current, 1994-95 fiscal year total receipts amounted to R43 billion [rands], R10-billion, or 30 percent, more than in the same period last year. This compares with a budgeted 11 percent rise to R106-billion for the full fiscal year.

Tax revenue rose from R28.6-billion to R37-billion and customs and excise duties from R4.4-billion to R6-billion. State spending, while ahead of targeted levels, is not running out of control.

During the April to August period expenditures totalled R55.3-billion, a rise of 15.3 percent on last year's comparative figure. The government budgeted for an overall 10.2 percent increase in spending to R135-billion.

The resultant deficit before borrowing of R12.4-billion is markedly lower than the deficit of R14.8-billion at the same time last year. If both revenue and expenditure trends are maintained the deficit for the year could fall short of the budgeted R29.7-billion, or 6.6 percent of gross domestic product.

No detailed tax breakdown is available in the CSS statistics for August but the July figures show a marked rise in income tax offsetting slightly lower VAT [value-added tax] and fuel levy incomes.

The latest figures are significant in that they come at a time when economists and financial markets are critical of government attempts to curb excessive spending by the public service. They also lend strong backing to continued assurances that addressing the social backlog will not take place at the expense of fiscal stringency.

In Parliament this week Deputy Finance Minister Alec Erwin announced tough steps to curb overspending in the 1995-96 financial year. He said the Cabinet had already set a guideline figure of about R150-billion for

spending in the 1995-96 budget. Of this amount R5-billion will be set aside for the reconstruction and development programme and about R30-billion will go on interest payments, leaving R115-billion to government departments and the provinces.

If 1994-95 budgets are maintained, this implies that spending will have to remain constant in real terms.

Mr. Erwin indicated that government would once again try to reduce the deficit before borrowing as a percentage of GDP while holding interest payments relatively constant. He also raised the prospect that privatisation would be "seriously considered" as a means to reduce state debt levels.

Government plans to control state spending are, however, seriously hampered by uncertainty over provincial allocations. Sources warn that the Financial and Fiscal Commission will not have completed its work by the time the Budget will be drawn up, so that provinces will have to operate without all possible sources of revenue.

On Friday, Mr. Erwin presented a new Bill to provide the provinces with borrowing powers, defining the limits within which they could borrow funds. A process was also under way to equip the provinces with an Exchequer Act, a Tender Board, a Provincial Revenue Fund and a Treasury, he said.

At present activities of the provinces are funded from the fragmented treasuries of former provinces and TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Vond, Ciskei] states.

Air Force Opens Underground Command Center

MB1909092294 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Stephane Bothma]

[Text] Pretoria—The process of integrating non-statutory forces into the National Defence Force was not an easy one and would only succeed if a common military culture and doctrine was developed, Defence Minister Joe Modise said on Friday [16 September].

Opening the new R220m [rands] SA [South Africa] Air Force [SAAF], headquarters in Pretoria, Modise said there had to be a recognition of diverse backgrounds and mutual respect if the integration process was to succeed.

The new building, with its four underground levels housing the SAAF command centre, a tunnel linking it to the SA Army headquarters and designed to withstand a direct hit by a 450kg bomb, would save the SAAF R9.6m annually in office rental. The SAAF was previously housed in five different buildings in Pretoria's city centre.

"The design and construction of this headquarters has been mindful of government's determination to reduce state expenditure," Modise said.

He said the building contained the finest command post in Africa and would increase the effectiveness of the SAAF.

"The principle of centralised command and control has in itself saved a substantial amount of state funds by obviating the need for several functional commands."

A concrete slab more than 1m thick protects the underground command centre. More than 63,000m³ [cubic meters] of concrete had been used.

South African Press Review for 18 Sep

MB1909054094

[Editorial Report]

BEELD

Removal of Statues—The Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 13 September notes in a page-8 editorial: "The handling of statues and other monuments in South Africa can easily inflame emotions. Friday's removal of the statue of Dr. H. F. Verwoerd in Bloemfontein gave a foretaste of that....It is not that no monument ought ever to be moved. Some have already been moved....Rather, it is the manner in which the matter is handled....It must be borne in mind that the removal of statues and other monuments will not make history disappear; that increasing their number will make South Africa a richer country culturally. What is needed is more statues, not fewer."

Change in Conservative Party—A second editorial on the same page of BEELD points out that "One of the most significant political events of the weekend almost passed unnoticed. That was the decision by the Transvaal congress of the Conservative Party [CP] that a committee should investigate the desirability of replacing the word 'white' in the party constitution with another description." Like the National Party earlier, says BEELD, "the CP is also realizing—not without great soul-searching, we believe—that it needs a change of heart if it wishes to survive in the new South Africa. This raises the hope that the CP will eventually get into step with the demands of change. There is simply no more room for racism, and the CP realizes that it must now change voluntarily before it is perhaps forced to do so. Parties which do not adapt to the new politics in this country are doomed to extinction. The CP has taken a first, cautious step to survival."

Boesak's Replacement—"The replacement of Dr. Allan Boesak as Western Cape leader of the ANC was not the surprise it seemed to be," argues a third editorial on page 8. "Both within and outside the ANC in the Western Cape there was always a lingering disappointment that the National Party beat the ANC so easily in the election. Many accusing fingers pointed at him, and now he has been formally identified and punished. But his fall has to do with more than simple lackluster leadership. It also has to do with the ability to change gears from the politics of the struggle to the politics of campaigning and government. Dr. Boesak has not shown that he can

manage this....It seems he would like to continue his career. Yet the plain truth is that he has been placed on the political scale and found wanting."

Action Needed Against Violence—The Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 14 September says in a page-10 editorial: "Increasing violence has now reached the point where some communities, frustrated by the apparent inability or failure of the security forces to do anything about it, are threatening to take the law into their own hands. Farmers continue to be murdered on their farms; innocent citizens are gunned down in buses or their homes; automobile owners are robbed of their vehicles, shot dead, or maimed; and the security forces have themselves been targets of murderers for a considerable time. It is in this light that one must see the shocking action of a group of people in Duduza east of Johannesburg who on Friday poured petrol over two suspected car thieves and set them alight. One can understand the public's frustration," but "the solution lies in firmer action by the state and greater cooperation between the police and the public. It does not help the state to bring about political and economic peace while law and order are falling apart. And that is what is happening. Speedy action, at whatever cost, is needed."

ILANGA

Need for Reconciliation—Durban ILANGA in Zulu on 15-17 September in a page-4 editorial says: "The mood concerning the affairs of the Zulu Royal House is so bad that no one is certain how two scheduled celebrations will turn out. On Saturday a highly respected annual ceremony, the Reed Dance, introduced by His Majesty King Zwelithini, is to take place....We do not understand how such important national ceremonies can take place successfully when the Royal House has problems communicating within itself, and why it has not taken urgent internal steps to reconcile, if that is what is needed. If this does not happen, the internal friction within the Royal House could spill out into the nation, and spawn a Lesotho-like situation. That would be very bad, indeed. So, we say, the elders within the Royal House must work urgently for a resolution. We do not know what is going on, but we sense winds of adversity that should not be allowed to bedevil the Zulu nation. Men of courage are needed to intervene. Those outsiders seeking to ensconce themselves with royalty, who brag that things will be going their way from now on, must know that they have to answer to the nation....Shaka Day, due to be celebrated on 24 September, is surrounded by confusion, and the entire nation is also confused....Threats are flying around....So, we say, all those affected and involved in these ceremonies, must come together and reconcile, so that no dirty linen will be showing. Differences of opinion will always exist, but there is no need to divide the nation."

Angola

Negotiators in Lusaka Agree on Observers' Role

MB1709144494 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] The government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] this morning held a plenary session in which they approved the document regarding the role of the observers of the Angolan peace process, thus taking another significant step toward their objective.

The mediators are still exerting strong pressure on the negotiators to conclude the negotiations by the UN Security Council's deadline. The signing of the eventual Lusaka protocol may take place within 15 days.

This morning government and UNITA representatives finally concluded discussions regarding the role of the observers, but it was not made public. The talks have been adjourned for the weekend and will resume on 19 September with discussions on the mechanism to replace the Joint Political and Military Commission, the last unresolved point of a tripartite issue that included the new UN Angola Verification Mission-3 mandate and the role of the observers.

Sources close to the mediators this morning told Radio Nacional de Angola that everything is being done to conclude the talks by 30 September as stipulated by the UN Security Council. The sources added that the mediators are exerting strong pressure on the negotiators to speed up the discussions of the issues still to be discussed.

UNITA Says UN Envoy Prevented From Visiting Its Areas

MB1909075894 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 19 Sep 94

["Communique" issued by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola Foreign Secretariat in Huambo on 16 September]

[Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] considers strange and worrisome the fact that UN envoy James Jonah was prevented by the Luanda government from visiting Huambo and other areas not in government control. The UN envoy's mission was aimed at verifying the real political and military situation of Angola, the peace prospects, and the state of the population's humanitarian situation. It is difficult to imagine how he could reach objective conclusions on the issue by visiting only one side of the conflict. It is equally

worrisome that the UN, an international institution overseeing the Lusaka talks, feels obliged to confine its actions on such relevant issues to the government's judgment, one of the parties in the conflict. The talks held with the UNITA delegation to the peace talks in Lusaka do not replace talks with the UNITA leadership. Moreover, there are displaced people in need of assistance not under the government's control who also need the UN's attention. In brief, UNITA believes that in this way an opportunity to integrally and objectively evaluate the state of the Angolan conflict and its distinct aspects and prospects for its solution was lost.

UNITA Spokesman Denies Savimbi Offered Vice Presidency

MB1809143394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] Issues relating to the body that will replace the Joint Political and Military Commission, CCPM, are likely to be discussed tomorrow by government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] negotiators. The negotiators still have to discuss UNITA's participation in government and the diplomatic missions that have been assigned to that organization. The negotiators are expected to deal with those issues swiftly.

Meanwhile, UNITA spokesman Jorge Valentim told us today that his organization's participation in government cannot be a (?casual exercise), but one that adheres to the rules of the game. Asked to comment on recent reshuffles within UNITA, Valentim said it is not a question of forming a shadow cabinet, but only a few adaptations to the current situation. Valentim denied media reports that the government would give the vice presidency of the republic to Jonas Savimbi. Valentim stressed that the legal accommodation of UNITA's leader will be announced through the appropriate channels and not within the framework of the Lusaka talks.

Mozambique

Renamo Will Not Begin Electoral Campaign on 22 Sep

MB1709164894 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1500 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A source from Afonso Dhlakama's movement told Radio Mozambique today that the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] will not begin its electoral campaign on 22 September due to lack of materials. The source said that even if the international community allocates the funds, Renamo will not be able to buy the materials for the campaign and send them to the provinces on time.

Benin

President Decrees Budget in Face of Criticism

LD1709154894 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The political crisis in Benin is deteriorating. For the second time, President Nicephore Soglo has decided to adopt the 1994 budget by decree. This means that the finance bill adopted by the National Assembly at the end of July will be ignored. [passage omitted]

Before taking this step the president consulted the Constitutional Court, which rejected the idea. The president, however, arguing that the Constitutional Court can only play a consultative role, issued a decree regardless. The deputies are quite understandably unhappy; they are planning to convene on Monday. Let's listen to National Assembly Speaker Adrien Houngbedji:

[Begin Houngbedji recording] My main concern is to safeguard our democracy so as not to jeopardize our chances of development. As you probably noticed yourself, there has been a continuous atmosphere of confrontation since President Soglo became president. Confrontation with parliament, confrontation with the Constitutional Court, with the Supreme Court, with workers, and so on. All this comes against a background of social tension because the beneficial results of the franc's devaluation are not yet counterbalancing its negative consequences which are being felt. We have put out the fire on each and every occasion since we are responsible leaders, our people are peace-loving people, and we want to protect our democracy.

Isn't President Soglo in danger of breaking the string after pulling so hard on it? Aren't creditors already considering Benin as a high risk country? These are the questions we are asking. The National Assembly will convene on Monday and will decide on the appropriate response. This response will take these factors into consideration. [end recording]

Burundi

Tutsi-Hutu Violence Reportedly Claims 62 Lives

AB1709204194 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By Damien Ntiranyuhura]

[Text] Bujumbura, Sept 17 (AFP)—Fighting between the Tutsi-dominated Burundian Army and extremist Hutus has claimed 62 lives, according to official figures published by the Defence Ministry here Saturday [17 September].

The fighting, which broke out at the beginning of the week, left 60 Hutus and two soldiers dead, while four other soldiers were wounded, according to the figures.

Clashes erupted early Tuesday, two days after Burundi's political parties signed a power-sharing agreement between the country's minority Tutsi opposition and the Hutu majority.

The Army restored calm Wednesday and was continuing operations in the Kamenge district, stronghold of the extremist Hutus opposed to the power-sharing agreement.

Following the Army operation, 385 people were taken in for questioning, the Defence Ministry said. Of these, 300 were subsequently released.

Elsewhere, the Army said it confiscated six rifles, six rockets, seven grenades and a quantity of ammunition.

Burundi's majority Hutu party, the Front For Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), condemned a Friday assassination attempt on one of its deputies, saying the country "risked being drawn into a spiral of violence."

The deputy, Norbert Ndihiukwayo, was driving his car through Bujumbura when two young men forced him to stop, said FRODEBU President Corneille Buzigye, speaking on Radio Burundi.

The two then opened fire, wounding Ndihiukwayo in the neck and leg, said the same source.

Unidentified assailants carried out a terror-raid Friday on Buyenzi market in the west of the Burundian capital. The raiders fired shots into the air before fleeing to avoid police.

A similar raid took place before dawn Thursday in a residential district near Bujumbura's presidential palace.

The violence has led to fears that the situation in Burundi could erupt into the sort of carnage recently witnessed in neighbouring Rwanda, where the ethnic mix is similar.

Inter-ethnic killings here have been sputtering since the assassination last October of President Melchior Ndaye, a Hutu, during a coup attempt.

Ndaye was elected president in June 1993 in Burundi's first multi-party elections. Burundian politics had previously been dominated by the Tutsi minority.

The assassination provoked clashes between Hutus and Tutsis that claimed more than 50,000 lives.

Ndaye's successor, Cyprien Ntaryamira, died on 6 April in the same plane crash that killed then Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana. It is thought their aircraft was the target of a deliberate rocket attack.

Since 30 June, Burundi's political parties have been involved in lengthy and difficult talks to try to decide on a successor to Ntaryamira, but this dialogue only seems to have aggravated the crisis.

Cote d'Ivoire

Further on Release of UN Observers

AB1509153194 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaîne Nationale-Une Network in French 1245 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] In Liberia, 43 officials of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia [UNOMIL] and six employees from charity organizations have been held captive for nearly a week now by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the country's main armed faction.

In a related development, a number of UNOMIL soldiers who had also been detained were released yesterday evening at Danane and today at Tabou, thanks to the role played by Cote d'Ivoire. A total of 25 persons have been released. Yves Ngoran, technical adviser of the Ministry of Interior and chairman of the National Liberian Refugees Assistance Committee, provides details:

[Begin Ngoran recording] Cote d'Ivoire today received on its territory, in Danane to be precise, 15 UN observers. As of right now they are still in Danane. Arrangements were made by the regional authorities to make sure they are accommodated and safe. We have been informed that 10 others have reached Tabou. For these 10 others who have just arrived, we also intend to make all the necessary arrangements to guarantee their security and accommodation.

Concerning the 15 already at Danane, the United Nations Development Program has just dispatched a team to the town to receive them and lead them back to Abidjan. This, briefly, is the information which I wanted to convey to you, and which illustrates Cote d'Ivoire's determination to guarantee not only the security of her citizens but also that of all those working for peace in Liberia. [end recording]

Liberia

UNOMIL Official Appeals for Release of Military Observers

AB1409182294 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Meanwhile, 43 officials of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, UNOMIL, are being held apparently by fighters in what was NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] territory. On the line, Elizabeth Ohene asked UNOMIL commander, General Daniel Opande, who he thought had taken them hostage.

[Begin recording] [Opande] The 43 military observers, who have been held since, you know, Thursday [8 September] last week, are held in various locations mostly in NPFL[pauses] let me say in all NPFL-controlled areas in the north, and in the east of the country, and southeast of the country, in various [word indistinct] locations and headquarters. I would like to appeal to anybody or those factions that are holding our military observers that they should realize that the military observers are not part and parcel of this conflict. They are unarmed people, and they should be treated, you know, without any intimidation. They should be released immediately.

[Ohene] Now that the NPFL are said to be in such a state of disarray, who are you dealing with to try and get them back?

[Opande] Well, we have been in touch with the NPFL leadership both at the political level, in other words, when the talks were going on in Akosombo, we were in touch with Mr. Charles Taylor, and also in the country, I have

been in touch with the NPFL High Command who had been until recently in and about Gbarnga.

[Ohene] When was the last time you were in touch with Mr. Taylor?

[Opande] I was never personally in touch with him, but my boss was in touch with him, who was also attending the talks in Akosombo, so both of them were in touch until, I believe, the day before yesterday when the talks came to their conclusion.

[Ohene] Now, what are [pauses] From your perspective, what is the military situation really like in Liberia currently? From the outside, it all sounds terribly confused.

[Opande] The military situation at the moment is very (?fluid) and, as you rightly say, is confused because there is quite a bit of fighting going on in and around Gbarnga and in other areas of the north, so it is really confused, as you say.

[Ohene] Do you know who is holding Gbarnga?

[Opande] Well, we have conflicting information that Gbarnga is no longer in the hands of those who were in charge of Gbarnga until last week. We hear that[pauses] we have had information that ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] elements are in charge of Gbarnga and maybe other forces are in and around Gbarnga, but this is not confirmed. We do not have any independent confirmation because we do not have any of our observers, you know, really in and around Gbarnga to let us know what is happening. [end recording]

Eight UN Soldiers Released

NC1709080294 Paris AFP in English 0754 GMT
17 Sep 94

[Text] Abidjan, Sept 17 (AFP)—Eight of 18 UN soldiers held by one of Liberia's warring factions were released early Saturday [17 September] and turned up in neighbouring Ivory Coast near Danane, 500 km (300 miles) northwest of Abidjan, a reliable diplomatic source disclosed here.

The men—three Bangladeshis, two Uruguayans, a Pakistani, an Austrian and an Indian—were in good health and did not appear to have been maltreated, the source said.

Defense Authorities Explain Acceptance of Akosombo Accord

AB1609131994 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900
GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Defense Ministry authorities have been giving reasons why the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL] accepted to assent to the new council of state formed in Akosombo, Ghana, during the meeting of signatories to the Cotonou Accord. Assistant defense minister for public affairs, Arthur Dennis, recently told a news conference in Monrovia that Lieutenant General Hezekiah Bowen's acceptance to assent to the council followed an appeal by Mr. Charles Taylor of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front

of Liberia] and Mr. Alhaji Koromah of ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia].

According to Minister Dennis, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah considered Gen. Bowen's ascension to the council as a means to pacify the conflict between the Koromah faction of ULIMO and the Lofa Defense Force on the one hand, and the internal ULIMO rift on the other. Gen. Bowen's inclusion on the council is based on the need to help end the fighting between the NPFL and the LPC [Liberian Peace Council]. He said these factions have most of their fighters drawn from the AFL (?and that) Gen. Bowen could use his influence to bring them together for peace.

Mr. Dennis indicated that with Gen. Bowen affixing his signature on the Akosombo agreement, it means that the AFL has replaced the present Interim Government of National Unity as signatory to the Akosombo agreement of which the AFL was a part.

Minister: Accord Not Binding to NPFL

AB1609103194 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Labor Minister Thomas Woewiyu says the Akosombo accord signed with Mr. Charles Taylor is not binding to the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia]. Minister Woewiyu in an interview yesterday noted that the CRC, the Central Revolutionary Council, the ruling body of the NPFL, has replaced Mr. Taylor with him Thomas Woewiyu as leader of the NPFL, prior to the signing of that accord. Therefore, he says, any document signed by Mr. Taylor after that period as leader of the NPFL, cannot be binding on the NPFL.

Minister Woewiyu also noted that NPFL fighters loyal to the CRC are in full control of Gbarnga and (?all) loyalists of Mr. Taylor are in disarray and in hiding. The minister said he had already given orders to the fighters and that the situation in Gbarnga will soon be under control. He also explained that (?until the situation) regularizes, the fighters will be ready for disarmament. Meanwhile, Minister Woewiyu says the imposition of a military junta will not be accepted in this country.

Koromah Claims Gbarnga; Marks 'End' of War

AB1409164194 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The three Liberian warlords, Charles Taylor of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia], Alhaji Koromah of ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia], and General Bowen of the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] may have signed a new peace accord at the Akosombo Talks in Ghana, but it seems there are some loose ends, not least the future of Gbarnga, Charles Taylor's headquarters, in eastern Liberia. Earlier this week, Alhaji Koromah's military commander in the region claimed that Gbarnga had fallen to ULIMO forces.

So, how does the peace deal affect the town's position? On the line to Akosombo, Elizabeth Ohene asked Alhaji Koromah what his information was about Gbarnga.

[Begin recording] [Koromah] My commanders have called me and said that they have complete control over Gbarnga, and we have been trying to call out to our brothers and sisters in Nimba that from Bong County, we are not going to carry any war into Nimba County. So, if there is a complete understanding of this, as far as I am concerned, this should mark the very end of the war in Liberia.

[Ohene] What does that mean? Does that mean that you are telling your commanders to give up Gbarnga?

[Koromah] No, I am saying that they are not going to carry on unnecessary and senseless war further because from Bong County, you are getting on to Nimba. We understand there is a lot of concern and worry in Nimba that we are coming and we are going to fight. No, we are not going to fight if nobody is there to fight.

[Ohene] But, you are holding Gbarnga now, according to you.

[Koromah] Yes, this is war, okay. No one place is for anybody. You know, Liberia belongs to everybody, so when there is war, wherever you are, that is where you are. It does not belong to anybody. Lofa County, the largest county in Liberia where we occupy exclusively, Capemount County or Bomi County, all the other counties that our forces occupy are not for ULIMO or the individuals in ULIMO. These are Liberian territories, you understand. So anywhere the war stops, it stops. [end recording]

Nigeria

Reshuffle in State Military Administrators Announced

AB1409180094 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] A major reorganization has been announced by the Federal Government in respect of state military administrators. According to the changes announced in Abuja today, two military administrators have been dropped, one promoted, and seven redeployed.

Those dropped are Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Onuka of Edo State, and Wing Commander James Kalau of Bauchi State. Navy Captain Adoteyi Sode of Oyo State ceases to be military administrator following his promotion to the rank of navy commodore.

On the redeployment list, Lt. Col. L.M. Torey of Ondo moves to Enugu while Navy Capt. Teni Ejoor moves from Enugu to Abia State. Col. C.I. Nwosu of Abia becomes the new military administrator of Oyo State. Group Capt. Gogo Agboneni of Adamawa moves to Cross River. Group Capt. Ibrahim Kefas moves to Delta State as the new military administrator. The new military administrator of

Edo State is Col. Bassey Asuquo while Police Commissioner Mustapha Ismail of Kwara now moved to Adamawa State.

Meanwhile, the head of state, General Sani Abacha, has approved the appointment of new military administrators for three states. They are Navy Commodore Aragi for Bauchi; (Group Capt. Inyau) for Kwara, and Col. A.A. Usman for Ondo State.

An official statement indicates that postings and appointments take effect from Monday [19 September] next week. The new military administrators will be sworn in at the Presidential Villa, Abuja at a later date.

NMA Warns of Possible Paralysis of Abiola's Leg

AB1509145294 Dakar PANA in English 1244 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Lagos, 15 Sep (PANA)—The Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) has warned that the right leg of detained millionaire-politician, Moshood Abiola, could be paralysed unless he receives urgent medical treatment. The NMA has been campaigning for the release of Abiola, facing trial for alleged treason, to enable him receive adequate medical care. The association said it sent a team two weeks ago to examine Abiola in detention and found he had leg pain (radiculopathy) and "mild hypertension."

Reacting to Tuesday's [13 September] court appearance of the millionaire, who looked unwell as he was escorted to the courtroom in Abuja, the NMA said in a statement Wednesday that "this presages disaster because the continued use of the lower limbs without the required investigation and treatment may lead to irreversible neurological damage and consequent paralysis of the affected limb." The association expressed concern that despite expert medical advice, Abiola was still taken to court without a "stretcher or a wheel chair." "This is most embarrassing after we have entertained a clinical impression of an early prolapse of the intervertebral disc which has started causing nerve root compression injury," the NMA said. The association claimed that the situation amounted to "torture" and against international medical convention.

In a related development, traditional rulers [Obas] in Abiola's western State of Ogun, on Wednesday suggested his release for "very comprehensive medical attention." "Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola must not die in detention," the Ogun Council of Obas said in a statement. [passage omitted]

Alleged Plot To Overthrow Government Denied

AB1609222594 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Defense Headquarters has described as unfortunate, unfounded, and scandalous, publications that implied that the replaced service chiefs, Major General Chris Ali and Rear Admiral Allison Madueke, were removed because of a plot to overthrow the government of General Sani Abacha and for importation of arms. In a

statement signed by the director of Defense Information, Brigadier General Fred Chijuka, the Defense Headquarters said it has no evidence to prove these accusations. He said the government does not owe it a duty to explain publicly its reasons for carrying out reorganizations from time to time. The statement adds that it is only those who are directly affected that deserve the right to know and are usually duly informed.

The Defense Headquarters said those peddling rumors about the displaced chiefs are doing so at their own risk, and those who are maligned reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the integrity of their names. He said the explanation has become necessary as the last warning to those speculative journalists, who abuse unfounded reasons, to desist from spreading rumors.

Editorial Views U.S. 'Grand Conspiracies'

Lagos NEW NIGERIAN in English 31 Aug p 1

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] The recent revelation of the U.S. government's grand conspiracies against the legitimate government of Nigeria is an issue that should not be treated lightly. For too long, many friends of Nigeria at home and abroad have been expressing grave concern at the selfish and arrogant manner the self-appointed world policeman has been meddling into the internal affairs of Nigeria and other developing countries. We have had cause, in previous editorials, to expose and condemn what we perceived as America's intolerable imprudence.

The U.S. capacity for mischief is legendary. Americans always prefer to protect the views of a vocal minority (who surrender their will to them), than those of the majority (who are committed to protecting their country's independence). Their commitment to democracy is therefore, not only cosmetic but contradictory.

Since the annulment of the controversial 12 June election, for example, the Clinton administration has refused to respect the ability and capacity of Nigerians to choose for themselves the best way of resolving the unfortunate political crisis in the country. Apart from imposing an unjustified limited sanctions on Nigeria at the behest of Chief M.K.O. Abiola and his tiny but vocal 12 June machine, the U.S. has so injured our sensitivities and assaulted our sovereign right as an independent people that many well meaning Nigerians started to wonder whether the Clinton administration was not interested in disintegrating Africa's largest nation.

Our fears are now confirmed not only by the systematically orchestrated "diplomatic arm-twisting and raw blackmail" by the 'tolerant' Clinton regime, but by the now exposed U.S. desire to topple the Abacha administration and move the country to the definitive path of ultimate destruction. While commending the vigilance of Nigeria's security agencies for tapping the pulse of U.S. diplomatic manoeuvres in the country, may we restate our call on the Federal Government to treat this information with all the seriousness it requires.

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